

Rancho Santo Fe:

Where can we go
From Here?

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Rancho Santa Fe is a beautiful country town of a population the size of a very large resort. In fact this town of ours is very much like a resort. Don't take me wrong, I mean in no way is it comercial or spoiled by outside means. Maybe that is a reason I find Rancho Santa Fe the only place in Southern California in which I would like to make a home. However you can barely qualify me as an expert. I've never lived anywhere else in my life.

Rancho is one of the only places I have visited where you can find the modern style mixing pleasantly with Spanish style that has been present for many-a-year. Large rolling estates mingling with the small, cubby-hole cottages and the and the social and influential person as well as those who seek a quiet life are all present here. However, the thing that devistates me the most is the older generation living in harmony with the younger, energetic set. I feel this is as important to a society as water is to fish, and Rancho Santa Fe is a fine example of this relationship. I

will give you one of these examples.

I once knew a man who lived close to the village. He had emphysema and had to carry a lung-oxygen machine everywhere he went. His reflexes were slow to me, for I was only ten at the time. However, he started a very involved model of a car's motor. Every piece took time and developed an extreme bonding in our relationship. It was as if the smallest piece meant something dear to his life. When the model was finished, he gave it to me. I knew he had given me more than just a model. He let me have the life it held within it. He died a year or two later. I will never forget that man.

Rancho can only keep going as long as we have people willing to speak up when they feel something is wrong. In being such a small community we can be assured of one thing: An equal voice in what happens. For what happens to the community happens to every individual.

Rancho Santa Fe has been here fifty years. It has seen many faces, new and old. History tells us where we've been. The big question now is where are we going to go from here? That is why I believe it's important to listen to the views of men like my old friend and children as well.